

## River Bend Foundation Meets

### River Bend Educational Foundation Reviews Budget

Reported by Dr. Jane Bauer

The Board of Trustees of the River Bend Educational Foundation met Tuesday, January 12, at 7:02 A.M. in the District Office with President Barb Mask presiding. Member Treasurer Gary Hayenga presented a 2010 budget and gave an overview of expenditures for the last eight years. Members decided to discuss the budget again in February.

Mask invited those present to submit names for a replacement for Member Karen Abbott. Abbott tendered a resignation due to other commitments. Current River Bend Educational Foundation Members, in addition to Mask and Hayenga, are Stan Borgman, Claudia Clarkson, Jane Orman-Luker, Susan Phillips, Kathleen Schipper, Jean Wilkin, Rich Winkel, and Scott Zahnle. Virginia Petersen volunteers as recording secretary and the district superintendent serves in an advisory capacity. Mask asked the Board to keep thinking about possible members and to bring names to the next meeting.

It was moved by Member Hayenga, seconded by Member Scott Zahnle, to approve a Mini Grant request from Deborah Daehler for \$500 for Corbin's Exotic Pets Assembly. The assembly features exotic animals from around the world including pythons, skinks, and spiders. The assembly will be held for students grades kindergarten through eighth grade. The Board established the 7:00 AM regular meeting date on the second Tuesday of each month. The treasurer's and secretary's reports were accepted as presented. Mask informed the Foundation that Tim Dannels confirmed he would be the speaker at the Academic Excellence Dinner Tuesday, March 9, 6:30 P.M.

Mask discussed bringing the Young Author's program back to the schools. Dr. Bauer stated that would be a River Bend Advisory Committee for Excellence (RACE) item and stated she would place it as a discussion item on the agenda for January. Bauer stated that the leadership of that program must commit to a lot of time and there is a cost involved. Member Jane Orman-Luker recommended the auction for the parking spaces at each school be put back on the agenda in the fall. Currently, only the high school parking spot is bid.

Mask asked for approval from the Board to put the Foundation minutes, treasurer's report and Foundation brochure on the River Bend Schools webpage. This would allow the community and future community members to be informed as to the Foundation and its endeavors.

Dr. Bauer reported on the Thomson Prison and its impact on River Bend CUSD #2. She reported she has been working with Honorable Larry Russell, Fulton Mayor, on attracting citizens to the community. The Mayor put together the blogspot entitled "Thomson Illinois Housing Connections" at <http://thomsonconnections.blogspot.com/>. Pens with this information were passed out by the Mayor during the December Thomson Prison hearings. The pens were purchased by the City of Fulton and by Dr. Bauer. Bauer reported that technology and on-line access such as blogspot and Facebook are necessary as the people who will be moving here will be technology natives; people who use technology as a way of life. WebPages need to be developed to attract people to Fulton, Albany, and Garden Plain. Bauer reported she disbursed various District brochures and materials and the Mayor provided a booklet and welcome letter for Thomson Prison Government employees who were staying at the Comfort Inn in December.

The next meeting of the River Bend Educational Foundation is Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 7:00 A.M. at the River Bend District Office, 1110 3rd Street, Fulton.

Courtesy of the Fulton Journal